SOUTH VIET NAM In struggle

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CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

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editorial

A Featherless Hawk

ENTERING the New Year, Mr Nixon seized the opportunity to justify his crimes through a televised interview. A consummate psywar expert, he coated with candy semantics and rhetorics his design to carry on the Vietnamization policy, maintain the violence of air and artillery fire in South Viet Nam and preserve the right to conduct air attacks upon North Viet Nam as long as American prisoners are still in jail there. Though making the prisoners issue and the gradual pull-out of troops a screen to hoodwink public opinion, he cannot conceal his real intentions. Facts remain facts. Can Mr Nixon lull people into thinking that the war is fading away at the very moment the White House steps up the Vietnamization program for 1972-1973, and the Pentagon as yet drafted US war expenditures in South Viet Nam until 1975? At the same televised interview, has Mr Nixon not disclosed his plan of leaving behind part of the US army in South Viet Nam indefinitely? It is clear that far from trying to end all US commitments to this country, he reserves for himself the conditions to jump at other military adventures. But no flowering terminology of his can veil his bellicosity, brutality and perfidy.

WHAT happened in 1971 has been known to everybody. 1971 marked Mr Nixon's climactic efforts to Vietnamize the war and implement the doctrine bearing his name. 1971 also witnessed the biggest failures ever experienced by the US President. On the threshold of 1972, the prospects are not brighter. Having to phase out troops withdrawal, Mr Nixon still dreams of gaining a position of strength on the battlefield and at the conference table alike. Meanwhile, Viet Nam's ever stronger resistance to US aggression, scored great successes and enlisted firmer support from progressives all over the world, the USA included. How can he escape heavier defeat when the US main strategic forces — the Saigon puppet army — get shaky and bewildered after suffering serious losses in man-power, when Vang Pao bandits and Thai mercenaries are being routed in Northeastern Cambodia, the Plain of Jars, and Muong Suoi? Nixon's hasardous military moves to prolong and widen the war bring back nothing but increased crimes, more American casualties and postponed repatriation of captured US servicemen. Each of his risky adventures only lengthens the sufferings of the Indochinese and American peoples. They run counter to the world peoples aspirations for peace.

Therefore, the only correct way to get out of the Viet Nam and Indochina quagmire, is to end the war, withdraw all US troops and respect the South Viet Nam people's right to self-determination, as pointed out by the PRG's 7-point peace initiative. Mr Nixon is offered the choice of either following or avoiding that road. In case he embarks upon new daring adventure and seeks to undermine the Paris Conference on Viet Nam in a systematic way, then the same — or even more shameful — fate as his predecessors' will be waiting for him at the end of the tunnel.

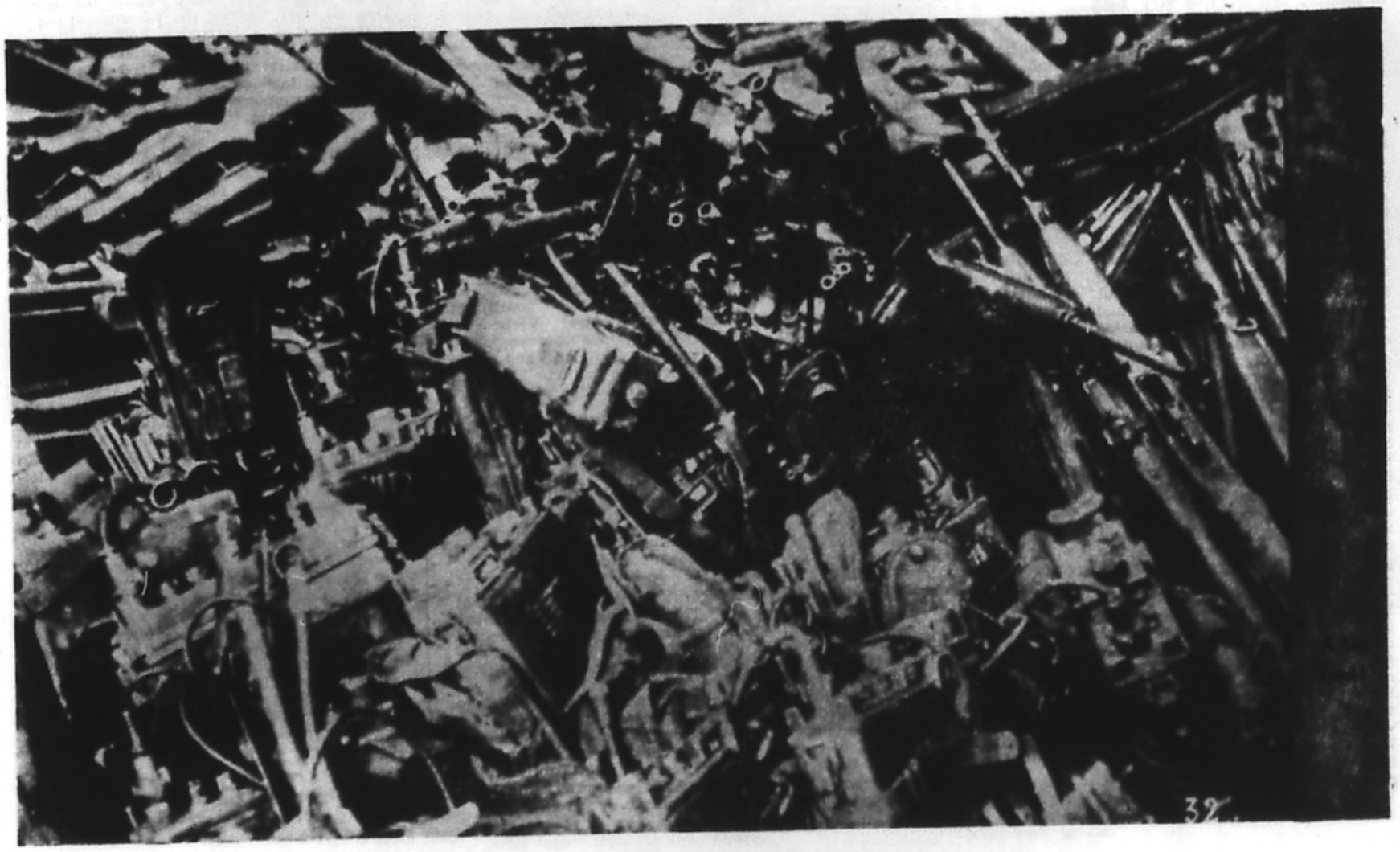
NOTEWORTHY in the televised interview was Mr Nixon's attempt to hush up the protracted and serious economic crisis in the United States, while dealing at length with US foreign issues, thus using diplomatic tricks to cover up or reduce the difficulties facing him. Through diplomatic moves, he tries to disseminate his own doctrine and keep playing the role of an international gendarme by other means. But how can he discard the very difficulties generated by the paradox of his own doctrine? How can he play the part of an international gendarme when the US is weakening in every respect and utterly isolated in the world arena? How can he make use of the Nixon doctrine to divide the socialist countries and estrange the national liberation movement when he is facing with the growing strength of the world revolutionary tide and the change of the balance of forces most detrimental to the United States?

So, President Nixon's answers to the New Year's televised interview sound like those of a man who "chews pepper but clamours it sweet", as we Vietnamese put it. In truth, the US imperialists and Mr Nixon are finding themselves in a fine mess. But what has prompted the US President to embellish so patently and ridiculously his own portrait in the first days of 1972?

1972 will be a year of fierce race for the presidential chair in the United States. Mr Nixon badly wants to win another term. His answers to the interview were simply the profession of faith of a candidate to the election, the way a man still in power campaigns for his candidacy.

But no flawless eloquence, no machiavellian justification can turn him, a lame and featherless hawk, into a flying dove. His desperate military moves will drive him straight to more humiliating disasters in Viet Nam, Indochina and the United States too.

SOUTH VIET NAM In struggle



THREE YEARS OF LURID RECORD OF "PACIFICATION"

THE "Committee for Denunciation of the US Imperialists' and Their Henchmen's War Crimes in South Viet Nam" has made public a document on the ghastly results of 3 years of "pacification" in South Viet Nam.

According to the record, since 1969, the US has spent 2 billion pollars and Thieu 9 billion piastres (Saigon currency) to set up 800 "pacification" teams of 44,000 wicked thugs under the command of 7,400 American "advisers" with a view to realizing their criminal "pacification" program. In the period under review, 50 per cent of the US and 80 per cent of the Saigon military activities have been designed to serve the strategic measures: "rural pacification", "draining of water to catch fish" and "shattering Viet Cong grassroots infrastructure" in an attempt to prolong and expand their aggressive war in South Viet Nam and perpetuate their neo-colonialism. To this vicious end, the US Saigon command mounted tens of thousands of operations big and small, and deployed over 1,400 aircraft of various kinds, nearly 2,500 artillery pieces and 1,000 warships in daily and hourly actions against the people and large areas in the South Viet Nam countryside.

In Hai Lang district (Quang Tri province) with an 80,000 population, the enemy dropped more than 1,028,000 bombs and shells. In Tay Ha Dong hamlet (South of Da Nang) 7 houses alone received 472 bombs. In Chau Lan hamlet, 12 houses were hit by 7,000 shells in a month. Dien Hong village (Quang Nam province) was subjected to from 5 to 20 airraids a day. In a year, each inhabitant of this village received an average of 5 tons of bombs, and in February 1969 alone, 126 villagers were killed by US bombs and shells.

In Kim Son (My Tho), Luong Hoa, Luong Phu, Long My, Phu Duc, Phu Tuc villages (Ben Tre) around Binh Duc base, US aircraft and artillery levelled almost all gardens and massacred thousands of people. Several areas in the Mekong delta and along the coasts in Trung Bo were devastated by US B.52 bombers.

Besides bombs and shells, the US-Saigon also used toxic chemicals against trees, domestic animals and poultry in an attempt to wipe out the people's sources of life and force them into concentration camps. Due to serious devastation of forests, Quang Nam and Quang Ngai provinces were recently affected by a big flood which rendered over 300,000 inhabitants homeless and carried away or heavily damaged from 50 to 80 per cent of the vegetation. More savage still, after the calamity, the US and Thieu clique again used bombs, shells and noxious chemicals to destroy the remaining vegetation and complete the elimination of the people's means of living.

In the surroundings of Saigon, Hue, and Da Nang, from 50 to 100 tanks and bulldozers constantly raided villages and hamlets, levelled houses or trees to set up a no-man's-land. Since early 1971, the US-Saigon rule has sent from 100 to 300 bulldozers to plough flat villages in Cu Chi district (Gia Dinh), Dien Ban, Duy Xuyen, and Hoa Vang districts (Quang Nam province).

In Quang Tri and Thua Thien, over 400 among more than 870 hamlets were blotted out.

In Hai Lang district, 23,206 houses, pagodas and schools were razed to the ground, 4,586 hectares of fields and gardens, 182 dikes and dams and 124,250 graves were completely erased, and 80,000 villagers forcibly herded into Hai Lang and Sia concentration centres. Around Da Nang, 406 out of the 426 hamlets were reduced to rubble. In Quang Ngai, from July 1969 to July 1971, 275 hamlets of 78 villages with 64,000 houses and over 115,600 hectares of fields and gardens were flattened by bulldozers. About

Victims of US napalm

3,000 hamlets of 38 villages in Tay Ninh, 30 villages in Thu Dau Mot and 38 villages in Long An were ruined. In a word, in 3 years of "rural pacification," the US and its hirelings have made millions of people homeless and deprived of all means of living so as to force them to leave their native land for "strategic hamlets" or other concentration camps.

In these disguised jails, a thick network of posts has been built, and a large number of bravos, civil guards, militiamen and combat police agents have been employed to control and repress the inmates. In 1969, in 20 concentration centres in Quang Nam, 2,651 detainees were beaten to invalidity, hundreds of them died from serious injuries and 1,135 others of starvation.

As a result of such horrors, the number of sick inmates has considerably increased. In Tan Tuong concentration camp (north of Quang Tri) with an area of about 4 square kilometres, more than 12,000 people were confined. In only a year, over 500 detainees succumbed to diseases and over 1,000 others were chronically suck. At the Van Thanh and Kong Hring camps respectively in Quang Ngai and Kontum provinces, 7,000 among the 10,000 inmates suffered from diseases and many died. In Pleiku province, in a concentration centre with 1,500 inmates, diseases also took a toll of 260 of them.

More than 10,000 people herded in various concentration camps and the Kong Hring "strategic hamlet" (Kontum) rose up and demanded to return to their native land. 350 inmates were killed and thousands of others wounded on February 22, 1969 as a result of a 4-hour punitive raid by US-Saigon aircraft, armoured vehicles and artillery. In Go Su area, Nghia Thang village (Quang Ngai), the enemy poisoned the drinking water which killed at one time 197 people. The survivors who put up an action against these atrocities suffered 21 more killed and 7 others wounded. On June 10, 1970, after slamming 600 shells on Phu Thanh "strategic" hamlet, the US-Saigon sent 4 aircraft to strafe those trying to extinguish the fire, killing 120 people. On March 16, 17 and 18, 1971, US-Saigon planes attacked Phu Nhon "strategic hamlet," completely destroyed 8 farms and inflicted heavy casualties.

Recently, the US-Thieu clique has launched a vast resettlement campaign, forcefully moving about 3 million people in 5 northern provinces of South Viet Nam to various provinces of Nam Bo (South Viet Nam proper) and south of Trung Bo (Central Viet Nam proper). They are coercing 2,000 families in Gio An and Gio Son "strategic hamlets" (Quang Tri) to migrate to the eastern part of Nam Bo.

Obviously Nixon and his bloodthirsty lackey Nguyen Van Thieu have been actively stepping up their genocidal policy, in an attempt to turn the South Vietnamese people into cannon-fodder for "Vietnamization" and slaves for US neo-colonialism.

"Rural pacification" is in fact a US-Thieu criminal strategic move and an atrocious method directed against the South Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights.

To wrest independence and freedom, and defend their own lives and property, the South Vietnamese will continue resolutely resist the US imperialists' "pacification" program and will surely foil their wicked scheme.

IN THE CITIES

- Under the impact of the university and middle-school students' vigorous protest backed by other segments of the urban population, the Saigon administration was compelled to set free five of their comrades illegally arrested during the drive against the Oct. 3, 1970 "presidential elections." The released students, who were in very poor health, bore scars from brutalities. Those of their friends still kept in Chi Hoa prison are staging a hunger strike.

- According to the Saigon papers *Dan Chu Moi* (New Democracy) and *Cong Luan* (Public Opinion) in Nha Trang and Phan Rang provinces, profiteers are stocking rice with the complicity of the local puppet authorities, thus making it very hard for the population to get it. *Dan Chu Moi* also reported that a number of members of the "Lower House" strongly scored Thieu's so-called "autumn economic revolution." They described US-Thieu's "new economic measures" as "last-ditch move" to rake up the people's, especially the poor's, money.

- Lately, many officials of the puppet administration in Khanh Hoa province sent petitions to Thieu, saying that they regarded his steps as expedients no better than the previous so-called "austerity taxes" and "perequation taxes." They are paralysing normal life and bringing about poverty to the urban centres, the said officials stressed.

- The Saigon Students' Committee for the Defence of the Right to Live launched a drive against US-Thieu reactionary economic policy and forcing South Vietnamese youths to go and die in Laos and Cambodia war theatres. Opening the campaign, they fanned out in the city's streets and burned 10 American-owned cars on Dec. 15 and 16.

- At the provincial capital of Vinh Long hundreds of people took to the streets to prevent the local puppet authorities from dragging away 66 draftees. The police fired at the crowd, killing a girl and wounding 12 people. Thousands of Buddhist and Hoa Hoa followers marched to the province chief's office where they outspokenly condemned the crime and protest against impress.

- Three priests belonging to the so-called 'young labour' organization – one of them named Truong Ba Can—demonstrated in front of the Saigon archibishop's office throughout Dec. 29, 1971, against the presence of puppet authorities at a ceremony held on "world peace day." The churchmen stated that the "representatives of the executive who trampled on the law were not entitled to attend since the ceremony was an action for social justice and peace."

- On Jan. 5 the Thieu administration ordered the closing down of the private press agency *Viet Nam Thoi Su* in Saigon which took to task the government's permission to propagate pornographic literature and antiquated customs harmful to the younger generation.

Postage has been sharply increased: from 6 piastres for a normal inland letter, the charge now is 10. This measure has aroused widespread popular discontent, particularly in the families of Saigon armymen, who most frequently write to them.

- Reverend Thich Thien Hoa, Dean of the Buddhist Propagation Institute and the Secretary General of the Buddhist Association in Saigon, sternly condemned US bombings of the DRVN and pointed out that the Vietnamese will not be cowed into submission by the aggressor's brutal force.

- Huynh Tan Mam, president of the *Saigon General Association of Students*, was arrested by the Thieu administration on Jan. 5. It is to be recalled that 61 students and a number of people, including Mrs Ngo Ba Thanh, president of the *Women's Movement for the Right to Live*, are still detained in Saigon for their activities against the Oct. 3, 1971 election farce. The Saigon General Association of Students called on all South Vietnamese to stand ready to deal with Thieu's forthcoming repressive measures.

IN THE CITIES

For our beloved fatherland

OVER 600,000 Vietnamese live scattered in many countries throughout the world. Although of different social backgrounds, expatriation reasons, tendencies and aspirations, most of them are patriotic-minded, national-conscious, solidarity-bound and eager to promote friendly relations with the peoples in their host countries.

Their patriotism and nationalism take on many forms: those of moral and material contributions to the resistance against US aggression and for national salvation, or of a clear-cut stand against the US imperialist aggressors and their hirelings.

Each event in the homeland provides an opportunity for them to express their attachment to their beloved Fatherland.

Wherever they are, they teach the mother tongue to their children and preserve the fine traditions of their nation. They draw examples from Viet Nam's four-thousand years history to educate themselves in the sense of solidarity and responsibility toward the destiny of the native country.

The letter from the Vietnamese in China on the occasion of the National Day said among other things: "Each day, each hour, we turn our minds towards our beloved Fatherland and engrave on our hearts President Ho Chi Minh's words: 'Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom. So long as there remains a single aggressor left on our soil we must wipe him out'."

The Vietnamese in Cambodia have raised a fund against US aggression and for national salvation.

Over the past years, the Vietnamese in Thailand have continually resisted arrests, division and coercion of Vietnamese to return and live in the US-Saigon - controlled zone so as to turn them into mercenaries in the service of "Vietnamization."

Our nationals in Vientiane are forced by the Saigon Embassy (in connivance with the reactionary forces in the Vientiane administration) to get a certificate from it if they wish to obtain a residence permit. Hence their sustained effort to safeguard their legitimate interests and oppose the control of the Saigon administration. They have had also to protest against the unwarranted arrest of some of them.

In such remote parts as Guinea, New Hebrides, New Caledonia, the Vietnamese always show a deep sense of solidarity, follow closely the situation at home and long for the return to their Fatherland as some of them have done to take part in the national resistance.

Each year, when comes the Lunar New Year, the Vietnamese everywhere in France gather to exchange greetings and display their love for the Fatherland.

In the 1970-1971 Spring, the Vietnamese in Morocco gave a great reception in honour of the representatives of the socialist and nationalist countries to thank them for the sympathy and support of their peoples to our people's resistance against US aggression and for national salvation.

In France and Canada, the Vietnamese run Vietnamese restaurants and summer camps, and organize soirées to impel the Support Viet Nam drive.

The dramatic successes of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people in their fight against aggression as well as the outstanding achievements of our Northern fellow-countrymen in their socialist construction are a source of great encouragement for the overseas Vietnamese. In many places, the latter hold meetings, send telegrams hailing the gains of the people in both zones and pledging a greater contribution to the liberation of the country.

They also staged meetings, sign petitions, reprint news articles and letters from organizations or individuals in South Viet Nam denouncing US-Saigon war crimes and opposing Nixon's "Vietnamization" and Thieu's October 3, 1971 rigged election.

The Vietnamese in France, Canada, Japan in particular held many meetings and put out many resolutions urging cancellation of this election.

The Vietnamese living in a number of countries where there is a Saigon Embassy still have to keep up their struggle against the Saigon counter-propaganda, coaxing and coercion, and against the scheme to impress their sons into the US-Thieu army. Vietnamese students abroad have to face up to the Saigon administration's economic pressure by cancelling remittances or scholarships..

Congress of the Vietnamese Resident's Union in France

In many countries, the Vietnamese residents and students publish militant news bulletins and magazines.

In response to the American progressives' movement against the Nixon bellicose clique's dragging out and extending its aggressive war in Viet Nam, the Vietnamese in France, Canada, the United States, Britain, Japan... have organized meetings, teach-ins, summer camps, soirées and get-togethers with American friends to highlight their common aims: the United States must stop its aggressive war, rapidly withdraw all US and allied troops home, and end its support of the Nguyen Van Thieu regime.

The overseas Vietnamese fully back the ten-point overall solution, the seven-point peace initiative of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government, as well as the four-point position of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

In many countries, the Vietnamese send money, tools, machines and medicines home as contributions to the war of resistance.

Our fellow-countrymen from North to South very highly appreciate the patriotic and national spirit of the overseas Vietnamese. Though living far from home, the latter constantly turn their thoughts toward their beloved Fatherland. As a Vietnamese in France says: "Our hearts beat in unison with our nation's."

On the occasion of the New Year, we extend our warm wishes to our Vietnamese fellow-countrymen throughout the world. We are convinced that they will strengthen their solidarity, obtain greater successes in their work and study, enhance their patriotism and make fresh active contributions to the resistance against US aggression and for national salvation.

Our people at home convey to them the assurances of their heartfelt affection and confidence in the final victory.

THE DRVN IN BRIEF

Combatant Tho, less than one year in the DRVN army, downed with his mates the 100th US plane on the famous Ham Rong Bridge (Thanh Hoa)

• In strict implementation of the order of the day of the Viet Nam People's Army High Command, the armed forces of the 3rd Military Region have launched the "bend all our energies on the frontline and the fighting" emulation drive as motive force to readily crush the enemy whenever and anywhere they come from and however strong they may be.

The naval, anti-aircraft and air forces have also been actively training, keeping constantly on the alert and ready to fight, raising their combativeness and satisfactorily putting into effect the watchword: "Close watch on, and instant annihilation of, intruders."

• Hoang Quoc Viet, President of the Viet Nam Federation of Trade Unions, had a cordial interview with a deputation of workers from the Haiphong Cement Plant. He warmly acclaimed the achievements recorded by its cadres, workers and employees, and wished them still greater successes in 1972.

• The Tran Hung Dao Engineering Plant has stirringly started its 1972 early Spring emulation drive. In one morning more than 50 youths of Engineering section number one surpassed their quotas from 50 to 250 per cent.

• The Haiphong Cement Plant has initiated the "Spring of Victory over the US" movement with the resolve to raise the 1972 cement output 50 per cent higher than the 1971 figure.

• Determined to implement the slogan: "Longer work-time, no idle time and a strict 8-hour work-day," members of the Labour Youth Union and youths at the Gia Lam Loco Repair Workshop have put in 1,800 extra work-days and earned 10,000 dongs. Many innovations have been introduced, boosting labour productivity from 53 to 81 per cent.

• The young engine drivers group number 420 is one of the standard-bearers of the Hanoi - Lao Cai railway. The group's most striking achievements are its 10 years' service free from accidents, constant overfulfilment of the freight-handling plan and successive attainment of the emulation regulations on the engines' maintenance. Over the past 10 years, the same drivers' group has successively been recognized as a socialist labour team.

• To put into practice the directive to turn animal husbandry into a main agricultural activity all provinces and cities and almost all districts in North Viet Nam have reviewed their livestock-breeding in recent years and discussed its orientation, tasks and development plan for 1972 and 1973.

• The National Library has completed the compilation of a bibliography entitled "Investigation of Vietnamese Aboriginal Plants," the first systematic bibliography of its kind. It will be of great help to specialists in their research on fuller use of land suitable for the growing of Viet Nam best species.

in 1971

QUANG TRI – THUA THIEN: Steady expansion of guerilla warfare

CENTRAL NAM BO: Enemy "pacification" thwarted

HIGH-PLATEAUX: Heavy losses on Saigon regulars

THE armed forces and people in Northern Quang Tri, the northernmost province of South Viet Nam, wiped out or captured nearly 15,000 enemy including over 5,100 GIs; destroyed or heavily decimated 11 enemy battalions, 27 companies and five armour squadrons, brought down or damaged on the ground 428 aircraft.

They also destroyed 1,185 military vehicles including 418 tanks and armoured cars, gutted 141 artillery pieces and heavy mortars, sank 127 war vessels, put out of commission eight radar stations, blew up 140 bunkers and tents, set ablaze over 100 ammo dumps and fuel depots and seized hundreds of weapons, hundreds of tons of ammo and other war material.

Early in 1971 when the US imperialists and their puppets were massing 45,000 troops on Highway 9 for operation "Lam Son 719" against Southern Laos, the South Viet Nam liberation armed forces flashed out timely pre-emptive blows, blocking all supplies to the enemy. A series of the enemy forward divisional HQs and logistic areas from Dong Ha to Khe Sanh came under violent attacks, resulting in the destruction of millions of litres of fuel, and hundreds of thousands of cannon rounds.

Later, when the remnants of the Saigon puppet forces were fleeing from Southern Laos, the PLAF in Khe Sanh put up violent fight, wiping them out in large numbers. In the more than 60 days of fighting (from January 30 to March 31,1971) the armed forces and people in northern Quang Tri put out of action 7,000 enemy including 4,054 US aggressors, shot down or damaged 234 aircraft and destroyed 863 military vehicles. Besides, the liberation combatants made continual attacks on enemy defences in Dong Ha - Quang Tri area, levelling a series of his strongholds. Particularly, patriotic forces abolished the enemy enclaves in Dong Tri and broke the operation "Song Than 2" (Tidal Wave 2) in Dong Toan, Dong Che area, knocking out nearly 1,300 US-puppet marines, shattering down 25 aircraft, and seizing some 200 guns. The Cua Viet river - Dong Ha area was put under great pressure. In May and September alone, 50 enemy war vessels of various kinds were sunk there.

* The armed forces and people in Central Nam Bo (covering My Tho, Ben Tre, An Giang, Kien Phong, Kien Tuong, and Go Cong provinces in the Mekong delta) last year defeated the US-puppets' scheme to "pacify" key areas in the region, particularly contested areas like My Tho, Ben Tre and Kien Phong.

Under their "pacification" plan, the US and Saigon armies last year conducted many terror operations to loot the people and draft the youth into the army. In particular in Ben Tre, My Tho and Go Cong the raiders razed thousands of houses and orchards and committed rapes, arsons and robberies wherever they went. US-puppet artillery frequently pounded villages and hamlets and their aircraft sprayed toxic chemicals, killing or poisoning hundreds of persons and causing extensive material losses to the people.

Unable to bear such a plight, the people, with the assistance of the liberation forces, rose up, killed, wounded or captured 32,620 enemy, destroyed 423 military vehicles, sank or set ablaze 149 boats and combat launches, shot down or wrecked 77 planes, smashed or damaged 40 big guns, and burnt 22 logistic storages.

Last year saw the rising of well over 1,220,000 people against enemy coercion, forcible relocation, conscription and plunder.

By November 1971, the armed forces and people in the area had arrested 1,065 cruel thugs, served notice on 4,000 others, destroyed 540 concentration camps and "strategic hamlets," surrounded and harassed 2,000 posts, and freed 3,200 youths from the draft.

In the same period, 636,000 persons together with relatives of puppet armymen persuaded 16,500 soldiers to desert, and helped others to stage over 430 anti-war actions and 138 revolts.

Besides, in the past year, the armed forces and people in Central Nam Bo consolidated their control over 1,300 hamlets and became masters of more than 260 others.

* In 1971, the armed forces and people on the Western Highlands of South Viet Nam dealt very heavy blows at the puppet regulars, the mainstay of the US imperialists' programme for "Vietnamization" of the war. They put out of action 18,000 enemy troops including 436 GIs, and more than 10,000 puppet regulars killed or captured. Dozens of units from battalion to regiment size were wiped out or heavily trounced.

Particularly in the Spring-Summer of last year, the armed forces and people on the Highlands, in close co-ordination with the Highway 9 - Southern Laos battlefield, had seized a good opportunity and nipped in the bud the enemy's operation in the three-border area.

The liberation fighters then made deep thrusts into the Ngoc Rinh Rua base, wiped out one well dug-in infantry-artillery mixed battalion, smashed the key link in the enemy defence system northwest of Kontum.

Besides, all the operations' HQs, storages, airfields and artillery sites at Dakto, Tan Canh were harassed day and night. As the puppet 2nd Corps could not stand the liberation combatants' onslaughts, the puppet 2nd Airborne Brigade, a strategic general reserve force, had to be rushed to the relief of their exhausted buddies there. Yet, they were forced to beat retreat. The liberation forces time and again slipped into the enemy's lairs in towns, provincial and district capitals..., constantly harassed the enemy's lifelines.

Besides inflicting heavy losses in man on the enemy, the armed forces and people on the Highlands last year brought down and damaged 137 aircraft; destroyed and damaged 1,116 military vehicles including 388 tanks and armoured cars, 69 cannons and heavy mortars, 138 heavy machine-guns and small-sized mortars, 587 barracks, 227 bunkers, 14 village administrative bodies, 54 transceivers, 10 bridges; set ablaze 27 military storages; seized nearly 1,600 guns of all kinds and a large amount of other war means and military documents.

US choppers downed and wrecked by SVN PLAF

Thai patriotic forces' attack on Utapao airbase

UTAPAO US strategic airbase in Thailand, 144 km south of Bangkok was attacked on the morning of January 10, 1972. Three US B.52 strategic bombers were destroyed or badly damaged, according to Western reports.

Utapao is the biggest US airbase in Southeast Asia, accommodating 50 B.52s.

Utapao airbase, like other US airbases in Thailand, is heavily defended by Thai special forces provided with US air support.

A B.52 bomber is worth 8,000,000 dollars, according to American report.

• On Dec. 28, 1971, Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho and President Huynh Tan Phat sent a message to the leaders of the Communist Party, the Supreme Soviet and the Government of the USSR, thanking them for their warm wishes for the 11th founding anniversary of the SVN National Front for Liberation.

A similar cable was sent to leaders of the Communist Party and the Government of the People's Republic of China.

• President Huynh Tan Phat addressed a message to Mr Stanko Todorov, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, on the occasion of his visit to the DRVN in late December at the head of a Party and Government delegation.

• On Dec. 13, 1971 Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho sent congratulations to Mr Edward Gierek on the occasion of the latter's election as First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Unity Party of Poland.

A congratulatory message was also addressed by Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho and President Huynh Tan Phat to Mr A. Indra Lubomir Strougal on the occasion of his appointment as President and Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia.

• President Huynh Tan Phat addressed condolences to Mr Willi Stoph, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the German Democratic Republic, for the death of Dr Verner Titel, Deputy Chairman of the Council and Minister of Protection of Nature and Water Conservancy.

in our liberated zones

• The PRG Representatives' Committee for the Western Highlands recently decided to award 11 second-class and 14 third-class liberation medals to regions belonging to the provinces of Binh Long and Phuoc Long for their 1971 successful counter-pacification work.

• In the first 11 months of 1971, with 233,000 attendances, the population of Western Nam Bo dismantled or shattered 2,076 "strategic hamlets" and other concentration areas, and established control over 400 hamlets. Another 83,000 people were liberated.

In November alone, 186 "strategic hamlets" were destroyed. Now Western Nam Bo counts more than 1,000 fighting villages and hamlets. The inhabitants dug well over 10,000 traps, prepared 1,000 fields with millions of spikes and planted trees on dozens of hectares more to modify the topography as to effectively counter enemy incursions into the liberated zone.

Also in Western Nam Bo, the number of pupils increased by 9,000 in 1971. The provincial and district leadership in educational work has been strengthened. Every village possesses an educational committee, and every province a boarding school. At the village and district levels, pupils are divided into small groups to attend classes in the inhabitants' houses or underground shelters.

Despite countless difficulties the number of pupils passing their exams last year as in the preceding ones reached a very high proportion. Tested by the fighting, teachers resolutely discharged their duty and contributed their best to education.

• In 1971, as in other parts of South Viet Nam, peasants in Central Nam Bo actively participated in production as well as in the fighting. They seized control over a number of villages.

In My Tho province, 70% of peasant families herded into "strategic hamlets" and other concentration areas, went back to the liberated zone and took part in the farming of food crops. Scores of thousands of people living under the enemy's grip had forced them to let them go back to their native places. Determined to increase agricultural production, the population of Central Nam Bo put under cultivation 15,000 hectares more than in 1970. In Kien Phong and Kien Tuong provinces alone, over 12,000 hectares of fallow land were grown with rice. In many areas new techniques were applied.

The revolutionary power at all levels constantly paid attention to raising the living conditions of the peasants. Apart from distributing land to them it supplied them with fund and implements, and provided technical guidance, in the liberated just as in he enemy-controlled areas.

People's power made safe at Anh Son village

THE inhabitants of Anh Son village rose up just when the Liberation Front Committee was set up in the province. With three rifles at the start, all of them — old and young, men and women — destroyed "strategic hamlets," swept the client administration away, established the people's power and allotted land to the tillers.

In retaliation, the enemy resorted to most savage repressive means: they unleashed thousands of Saigon troops at a "one to one ratio" against the inhabitants of that small village and dumped on it bombs of various kinds and toxic chemicals to "kill all, destroy all, burn all." Everything was their target: wells, seedbeds, ricefields, everyone was at least once beaten up or jailed.

The enemy wanted to write off that village from the map; but with their indomitable spirit and deep hatred for them, the Anh Son people put up a stiff resistance and wiped them out on communication lines. They then used another trick: they forbade the locals to move about and cut their village asunder. Coordinating their action with the guerillas, the Anh Son villagers hit back hard. Meanwhile, the women including old agers carried out political demonstrations.

Against the "pacification-in-place" drive launched by the enemy at a time when the inhabitants were restoring life to normal, an ebullient movement rose urging the "cadres to cling to the people, the people to stick to their organizations and the guerillas to hang on to the enemy," in a combined effort to wrest back their mastership over the village.

From 1969 onwards, Anh Son has experienced many hard trials. Defeated on the battlefield, the enemy stepped up the "pacification" of the countryside. But led by the revolutionary power, the Anh Son villagers have kept the flames of combat burning and been marching steadily forward. With weapons made by themselves or taken from the enemy, they have over the last three years fought many battles during which they have put out of action thousands of adverse troops, overrun nearly all the military posts in their village, destroyed about 300 military vehicles and damaged a big quantity of war materials. Tempered in the fight to defend their native land, thousands of youths of Anh Son have received enough military training to swell the ranks of the liberation regular army.

In Anh Son, a land constantly put to fire and sword by the enemy, everyone has been credited with an exploit of his own and every hamlet with its particular achievements. There, revolutionary power and various organizations are strengthened with every passing day. These accomplishments have been greatly instrumental in the foiling of the enemy "pacification" program in Central South Viet Nam.

Greeting the birth of the revolutionary power

AN UPRISING

FROM the sea the sun gorgeously shone on Trung Thanh hamlet. But the garrison installed there, the main link in the chain of nine posts built to prop up "pacification" operations in the area for over one year, was on tenterhooks.

In fact, liberation regional troops and guerillas continued to harass the US artillery position at Go Voi and bombarded the district offices for many nights on end. Regular units made a deep thrust onto National Road No 1, hammered at the CP of a US para brigade and the barracks, set fire to many petrol tanks and ammunition depots. At night all the province was put on the alert. The Second Tactical Area was in a turmoil.

In the morning, the command of Trung Thanh post put sentries at both ends of the road and the helicopter park. The position occupied three big brick houses owned by absentee reactionaries, on the edge of the hamlet. It was surrounded by thick man-high walls and eight rows of barbed wire entanglements reinforced with sandbags. A spiked ditch separated the barbed wire fences, the outer of which bristling with booby traps of various kinds including claymore mines and O.F. grenades. In the centre of the post was the commanders' refuge with a system of solid underground shelters defended by two big machine-guns and a 60mm mortar.

The five blockhouses surrounding the main post were garrisoned by five "security" platoons, one "civil guard" platoon and a 12-man "pacification" team. The place also gave shelter to the rural authorities for the night. They returned to the hamlet only in the morning for work. But over one month now they had taken refuge in the district town.

The "scout team" was made up of charming girls who did business transactions with the soldiers in the post to gather intelligence. They reported to the guerilla command that the garrison was on the alert. Sentries were stationed outside the post, while the enemy commanders never left their dug-outs.

As things stood, the command of the uprising worked out a plan of co-ordinated actions. One morning the guerillas lobbed three mortar shells on the stronghold. Immediately all leaves were cancelled, the two gates of the post were locked and combat orders given.

From both ends of the village, the inhabitants were swarming to Trung Thanh post to pull it down. In the lead was a "long hair" army of women of various ages. When they were about some hundred metres from the target, the enemy believing that they were staging routine actions, fired a machine-gun burst over their heads and made a barrage of 60mm mortar shells to check their advance. In the midst of the explosions and the dust and smoke, a shrill voice commanded the demonstrators to lie on a freshly harvested ricefield.

The shelling and strafing stopped.

A sexagenarian woman, whose son had been crimped into the Saigon army, carrying a parcel of betel and areka nut, walked straight up to the gate.

"Who goes there?" challenged a guard, with his rifle at the ready, from behind the barbed wire fence.

"To tell you the truth," the woman with the parcel of betel went on, "today we have come to tell you to go over to the resistance's side."

"Do you know that the corpses of government soldiers killed on the Highway 9 - Southern Laos front have been brought back in an endless convoy of lorries; government posts have been wiped out in great number; the townsfolk have risen up to claim the return of their husbands and sons. As a mother of a government armyman, I want to warn you that if you offer any resistance, you will be mown down. Try by any means to save your bacon. We are fighting for your sake. Don't fire at us anyhow, understand?"

As soon as she had finished the inhabitants flocked in and besieged the post from all sides.

Miss Lanh, a good-looking girl under 20 who had just ordered her fellow-villagers to lie on the ground, drew near the barbed wire fence and said: "Are you going to interfere with our action? Do you know that yesterday the Front struck at the district offices, the American artillery positions and the para unit? Today we are encircling all the posts in the village. The best thing you can do is to throw away your firearms and return home; you'll be helped by the inhabitants and rewarded by the Front for your good behaviour. You can also withdraw and leave us alone. For over one year now, we have suffered enough torture, jailing, killing, and bombing and strafing by the Americans. Our patience is exhausted. Your crimes are piling up. The only alternative left to you is to return to the fold and to mend your way."

Stung to the quick, the guard was infuriated. He called Lanh "insolent Viet Cong girl" and told his mates to nab her but she had sought protection among the crowd. Taking advantage of the confusion, the inhabitants pushed open the gate, broke into the post and asked to see the commander. Driven to the wall, the officer made his appearance. He was a tall, swarthy fellow. With his bloodshot eyes and a pistol dangling at his sides, he looked very arrogant.

"Take it easy," the post commander said. "Let's sit down and talk things over. You want us to surrender to the Front or evacuate the post, don't you? No, we do not want to do that now. We only obey orders from our superiors. You can't give us orders. You can't dismantle the post. You must not make a noise here..."

"Didn't you say you could stay or leave at will?" a voice cut in.

Another voice louder, rose from the crowd: "Today we've come to ask you to pack off. It is an order from the inhabitants in this village. If you refuse, you'll get into trouble at noon."

The post commander withdrew, leaving a platoon commander to deal with the crowd. As the action had yielded an initial result, Miss Lanh stood up and addressed her fellow protesters:

"We've come here out of humanitarianism to tell them to return to the people, to the Front; but they are stubborn people. Let's go home. It's noon. Let the liberation fighters take care of them."

At noon sharp, three rounds of mortar shells exploded in the middle of the post, throwing the occupants into a panic. "Hell! They now attack in the daytime," somebody exclaimed.

That night all the nine posts in the village were harassed by guerillas' shellings at Go Vai, the American artillery base, assaulted by regional troops, fell back onto the defensive.

THE following morning, Trung Thanh post continued to be beleaguered by the local people who received reinforcements from two nearby hamlets. Their commander was Lanh.

After crossing the river, the protesters were spotted in a ricefield at 300 metres from the post. Immediately they were greeted by a salvo of machine-gun fire and seven soldiers carrying ultra-rapid tommy guns rushed out to stop them.

Marching in file, the 200 besiegers now walked abreast in two lines and enveloped the seven soldiers. Tear grenades crackled. Quick-firing machine-gun bullets shot from the post ploughed up the ground in front of the assailants and near Lanh's

feet. When the firing stopped, the noose tightened around the seven soldiers, pushing them back to the post. Retreating, they suddenly turned round and ran inside, pursued by the inhabitants. The defenders were unable to check their advance with sticks and rifle butts which were snatched and thrown away by the assailants. The post commander threatened to bind them up and carry them away. But nobody seemed to take notice of his words. Plied with questions, he did not have the same countenance as the day before. Anxiety could be read on his face.

Uprisings had been staged all around in the district. Many a time he had asked for reinforcements but received the same reply: "We've got enough to cope with elsewhere. Fend for yourselves, fight to a finish but don't surrender your post..."

From the crowd, an old woman stepped out and handed him an envelope: "A letter for you," she said.

With diffidence, he held out his hand. The message was addressed to: "The lieutenant commanding Trung Thanh post." It was an ultimatum from the National Liberation Front district committee with three conditions:

1. Surrender and the NFL will be lenient, the people will give assistance;

2. Evacuate the post;

3. In case none of the two above terms is accepted, the liberation armed forces will attack the place.

The man thought hard. He heard voices from the crowd:

"For charity's sake we do not wish to see bloodshed here. Your small post cannot stand the assault of the liberation fighters who have come in force. Your obduracy only exposes you to a useless death. If you refuse to surrender or evacuate the post, we shall go home and let the liberation troops free to deal with you."

The post commander asked for a two days' delay. Dissatisfied, the inhabitants left for home.

At noon sharp, the guerillas fired six rounds of mortar on the post as a warning. After two days' strafing, the morale of enemy troops was sagging. The situation required that we should press hard the siege and take stronger action for the liquidation of the post.

ABOUT noon the third day, the villagers streamed back to the stronghold. This time not in strict formations but in small groups. When the leading party was about some hundred metres from the gate, the soldiers installed a machine-gun at the entrance door and blazed away at it.

A white-haired septuagenarian, mother of a security guard in the post, stepped out of the crowd and headed for the machine-gun which was spitting fire. As soon as she drew near it, the shots flew high in the sky and stopped.

"Why did you dare to fire at us, you silly boy!" she sternly scolded. "If you are fond of shooting, shoot at me and not at our folk."

Then she lifted the barrel of the gun and waved the crowd on. As the soldiers were flabbergasted, the inhabitants rushed into the post and remained there till noon. The puppet troops even had to feed them.

A woman with a black eye received during the last fray came in front of the post commander and arms akimbo, repeated the conditions laid down in the ultimatum and added:

"The terms of the Front are ours too. Now give us a clear-cut answer."

"We'll clear off," said the post commander in a voice husky from fatigue and lack of sleep. "But give us some more days. We need time to put our things in order."

"You'd better decamp at once," said the woman, dissatisfied with the reply. "Do you want to take away the whole post with you? Don't play for time. We'll pull it down ourselves!"

Presently, she went to the iron stake, and tried to pull it up. The others followed suit and set to remove the fence.

"Don't do that yourselves," the post commander said. "Let my men do it. Tomorrow we'll be gone."

"Well, you must have done with it today," the crowd replied. "Any delay will only cause bloodshed and expose us to danger."

ON the 6th day of the insurrection, at 4 p.m. seven lorries came to the post and left it full of haversacks, tents, furniture and military equipment.

In the night, the guerillas continued harassing the enemy. In the end many security agents and civil guards defected.

The next morning, the scout team, reported that all the garrison had moved off. On the same night, under the pressure of the inhabitants and the armed forces, the garrisons of all the other military posts in the village retreated to Go Voi base. The population then went to other villages to help the people there with the same job. At the head of a demolition group, Huong went back to Trung Thanh post and gave the first strokes of her pickaxe to the roof of the main blockhouse, to vent the hatred she had so long nurtured for the mercenaries. Together with the heap of rubble all the hope of the enemy to "pacify" the area was crumbling.

PHONG VU

French Communist Party visits the DRVN

AT the invitation of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, a delegation of the French Communist Party led by Mr René Piquet, member of the Political Bureau, Secretary of the Central Committee of the French Communist Party, paid a friendship visit to the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam from December 24, 1971 to January 1st, 1972.

During its stay in Viet Nam, the delegation was accorded a very cordial welcome by President Ton Duc Thang, and First Secretary of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, Le Duan.

The delegation of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and the delegation of the French Communist Party held talks in an atmosphere full of cordiality and comradeship.

Following is an exoerpt from the joint communiqué:

..." The two delegations energetically condemn the criminal manœuvres of US imperialism. They vigorously denounce the crimes perpetrated against the peoples of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia. They especially denounce the US imperialists' intensification of the bombings which encroach upon the sovereignty and security of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, in defiance of their commitments in November 1968.

The two parties firmly demand that the Nixon administration seriously respond to the seven-point solution put forth on July 1st, 1971 by the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and notably to the following two fundamental points:

1. The US government must completely cease the aggressive war, put a complete end to the 'Vietnamization' plan, withdraw from South Viet Nam completely and unconditionally the troops, advisors and military personnel, arms and war materials of the US and the other foreign countries in the US camp, dismantle the US military bases in South Viet Nam, stop all air and naval activities and all other military activities against the Vietnamese people in both zones.

2. The US government must respect the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people, renounce all support to the bellicose puppet ruling clique headed by the dictator Nguyen Van Thieu, so as to pave the way for the formation in Saigon of a new administration favouring peace, independence, neutrality and democracy, and ready to engage in serious talks with the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam with a view to establishing in South Viet Nam a government of broad national concord...

The two parties firmly demand that the US imperialists end their aggression in Laos and Cambodia and strictly respect the independence, sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity, peace and neutrality of these two countries.

The delegation of the French Communist Party warmly hails the glorious victories won by the Vietnamese people in the resistance against US aggression, for national salvation, as well as in the building of socialism in North Viet Nam.

The delegation of the French Communist Party reaffirms the profound sympathy and total support of the Communist Party, the working class and people of France to the patriotic struggle of the Vietnamese, Lao and Cambodian peoples against US aggression.

The delegation of the Viet Nam Workers' Party highly appreciated that struggle of the French Communist Party.

It values very highly the warm support extended by the working class, people of various strata and the democratic and peace forces of France, to the patriotic struggle of the Vietnamese people against US aggression. On behalf of the Vietnamese communists and people, it expresses their sincere and profound gratitude for this great assistance.

The two delegations note with great satisfaction that the very close fraternal friendship binding the Viet Nam Workers' Party, the working class and people of Viet Nam and the Communist Party, the working class and people of France has unceasingly consolidated and developed."

Lon Nol mercenaries routed by the CPNLAF

Cambodia 1971, year of CPNLAF big victories

ACCORDING to still incomplete statistics released by *AKI*, in 1971, the Cambodian people and PNLAF wiped out or captured nearly **80,000** enemy troops, among them more than **28,000** Saigon troops and hundreds of GIs.

In terms of units, they killed, wounded, captured, heavily decimated or disintegrated nearly **120** Phnom Penh battalions among them **9** brigades were wiped out or heavily decimated. The liberation fighters also wiped out or decimated **7** multi-battalion units, one brigade, **3** regiments and over **60** battalions and sub-groups of Saigon troops.

In terms of war means, the liberation combatants shot down and shattered on the ground over **600** aircraft, sank or set ablaze **200** odd combat boats and launches, wrecked nearly **800** tanks and armoured cars.

The CPNLAF set aflame and exploded almost **150** ammo and fuel storages containing tens of thousands of shells and hundreds of millions of litres of gasoline, captured and smashed tens of thousands of firearms including nearly **300** artillery pieces and heavy mortars.

Laos:

Sam Thong-Long Cheng liberated

AFTER their glorious victories in the Plain of Jars-Muong Suoi, the patriotic forces continued to assail the enemy in the Sam Thong-Long Cheng region.

On January 10, the LPLA artillery destroyed the headquarters of the 2nd corps, the operational Command Post, many landing pads, ammunition storages, the signal centre, the electronic installation of the CIA, and artillery sites, of the Vang Pao and Thai forces.

Their infantry, in close co-ordination with the regional forces and guerillas repeatedly attacked the enemy in Hin Tang, Tham Lung and Phu Lung Mat. They seized 5 of the 6 airfields in the area, disrupted communciation between Long Cheng-Pakhao and Long Cheng-Sam Thong.

The same day, the LPLA drove the US-Vang Pao "special forces" out of Sam Thong strategic base, some seven miles northwest of Long Cheng, and seized complete control of Sam Thong township. Meantime, at Salaphoukhoun, 70km west of the Plain of Jars, the LPLA overran the Phouphaday, Phouvieng and Ban Long Pot positions, knocked down hundreds of enemy troops, captured many others, and seized a great deal of weapons.

The liberation forces also stepped up their attacks on enemy troops along Highway 13 from Vientiane to Luang Prabang, blowing down many bridges, paralysing all enemy traffic.

After the victory at Sam Thong breaking the system of exterior defence of Long Cheng, on January 12 they overran Long Cheng, the last stronghold of Vang Pao's "special forces" and Thai mercenaries in the Plain of Jars, hoisting its victorious banner over the enemy headquarters, according to *KPL*.

The enemy resistance pockets on Peaks 1438, 1610, 1242 and Phou Mok had successively and quickly fallen into the hands of the Lao Liberation forces right at the beginning of the assault. The liberation forces then overran the airfields and the central part of Long Cheng.

They put out all resistance of the Vang Pao "special forces" and Thai mercenaries in the centre of the Long Cheng military base.

The enemy forces were wiped out by big chunks and the remnants fled away in panic with the LPLA hot on their heels.

According to incomplete statistics, enemy losses on this battlefield from December 31, 1971 to January 10, 1972 included more than 1,000 troops killed, wounded or captured, 10 war planes shot down or blasted on the ground, and hundreds of firearms, dozens of military vehicles, and a large amount of war supplies destroyed or seized.

LAO PLAF FEATS IN 1971

According to still incomplete figures released by *KPL*, in **1971**, the Lao people and armed forces:

— Wiped out, captured or decimated **42,000** enemy troops (among them **16,000** men of Vang Pao "special forces," more than **5,700** Vientiane troops, nearly **4,500** Thai mercenaries and over **16,000** GIs and Saigon soldiers.)

— Seized or destroyed nearly **11,000** firearms, more than **800** military vehicles, nearly half of them tanks and armoured cars, **476** transceivers, and downed or wrecked over **700** aircraft.

nixon's escalation still under fire

IN the past few days, public feeling throughout the world continued to mount against US air attacks of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

Following statements by Governments and Foreign Ministries of several countries, various international, regional or national organizations, the Chairmen of the Council of Ministers of Bulgaria and of Mongolia, the Prime Ministers of India and Norway, the President of Congo (B), the President of the Angolese National Liberation Movement ... declared against the new US military adventure.

Bulgarian President Stanko Todorov regarded it as a brazen challenge to the DRVN and the peace-loving forces the world over, and a gross violation of the sovereignty and threat to the security of a country, a breach of international laws and of the US commitment on the complete cessation of the bombings of the DRVN ... It has once more bared to the world US intention not to achieve peace in Viet Nam but to carry an outmoded aggressive policy which cannot escape failure.

Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi declared that she shared the world people's abhorrence of the US air strikes against North Viet Nam.

Protest meetings and demonstrations continued to be staged in the Soviet Union, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, West Germany, Australia, India ..., for "an immediate end to the air attacks on the DRVN and US troop pullout from Indochina."

Workers at the Sverdlov Enterprise (Soviet Union) adopted at a recent meeting a resolution pointing out that "the bombings of the DRVN once again revealed to world public opinion the US authorities' deceptive and hypocritical promises to scale down military activities to an end to the war in Indochina."

The petition and letter to Nixon from demonstrators in Oslo said: "The US air raids have inflicted countless sufferings and deaths on the Vietnamese, destroyed and interrupted the national construction of a free and independent people."

Speaking at a meeting held by Swedes, woman writer Sara Lidman made clear that "Vietnamization is to exterminate the Vietnamese and wipe out every sign of life. Each time Nixon appears on the T.V., more bombs and shells are rained on Viet Nam."

Danes warned that "if the US resumes its massive bombings of the DRVN, the sources of US profits in Denmark will not be safe."

In the US, marches by Viet Nam veterans and other Americans continued to take place in New York, Boston, Hartford... Significantly many, American officers and men at Mount Home air base signed petitions saying: We can no longer keep silent before the air strikes which are but, in our opinion, a genocidal crime and are harmful to the life and freedom of our brothers now being detained and those entrusted with the raids. Peace can be restored in Southeast Asia not by means of new wars but by withdrawing all the American troops including the air force.

The US 'Students' Organization, the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA made public statements condemning the US authorities' new war escalations. More and more men from the US political circles have raised their voices against the Nixon administration's warlike policy, pressing for an immediate end to all air strikes and other military activities in Indochina. Senator Mc Govern said: If the US government fix a time limit for the total repatriation of US troops from South Viet Nam, put a stop to the bombings and attacks on Indochina and cease backing the Saigon quisling administration, the GIs will be able to withdraw in safety and American prisoners of war released.

Nixon wants a way out for his aggressive war by means of military actions, but world public opinion has shown him that such a course of action will be a sure flop. It is obvious that Nixon has met with growing setbacks: dozens of aircraft downed, the list of American airmen captured lengthened day by day, and his isolation ever more serious in the world.

VIET NAM -- INDIA SOLIDARITY AND FRIENDSHIP FURTHER STRENGTHENED

A decision has just been taken by the Governments of the DRVN and the Republic of India to raise their respective diplomatic missions to embassies as from January 7, 1972.

The move marked a new stage in the development of the solidarity and friendship between the peoples of Viet Nam and India, and was a diplomatic gain of the DRVN government.

In the recent past, many governments in the world including those of countries allied to the US have established diplomatic relations with the DRVN Government, which has constantly raised the latter's international status.

Since long, the Vietnamese people's resistance to US aggression has been enjoying the sympathy and support of the Indian Government and people. While the US imperialists have been prolonging and expanding the war in Viet Nam and Indochina, broad sections of the Indian people have come out for the sound position and good will of the PRG of the RSVN as shown in its seven-point proposal. In the Indian people's eyes, the representatives of the South Viet Nam people are definitely not the Nguyen Van Thieu dictatorial bellicose clique, but the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam.

The decision taken by the two countries was an inevitable step in the strengthening of the friendship between the peoples of the countries, which conformed to their aspirations and the present international juncture.

Naturally, the US-Thieu clique, common enemy of both countries, frenziedly opposed it. They have threatened reprisals against Indian nationals in South Viet Nam and against the Indian delegation to the International Commission. The dog may bark but the caravan passes. The more they rage and resort to retaliation, the more they expose themselves as traitors.

The South Vietnamese people warmly hail this fresh manifestation of solidarity, friendship and mutual assistance between Viet Nam and India in their fight against colonialism and for national liberation.

New Delhi: Demonstration against US aggressive war in Viet Nam

in brief

• Tens of thousands of meetings, get-togethers, soirées and film shows on Viet Nam... were attended by millions of Soviet people from all walks of life in many places in the Soviet Union during the "Viet Nam Solidarity Week" from Dec. 14 to 20 to mark the founding anniversary of the South Viet Nam NFL. Thousands of letters, petitions, appeals and statements by various social and mass organizations... were sent to the RSVN Ambassador to the Soviet Union, warmly praising the brilliant achievements scored during the past 11 years by the South Vietnamese people against US aggression, strongly condemning the dirty US aggressive war in Viet Nam and demanding that the US government immediately withdraw all US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam and its support from the traitor Nguyen Van Thieu.

• Of late, the National Convention of the Danish Popular Socialist Youth unanimously passed a decision fully supporting the seven-point peace proposal of the RSVN PRG, severely criticizing the "Vietnamization" policy of the US which is intensifying and extending the aggressive war in Indochina, and urging that the US government set a date for the unconditional withdrawal of all the troops, military advisers and war means of the US and satellites from South Viet Nam... and respect the right to determination of the Vietnamese people.

• On the occasion of the founding anniversary of the South Viet Nam NFL, the Federation of Free German Youth in West Berlin collected over 10,000 West German marks for the Vietnamese. More than 2,000 marks were collected by the Association of German Victims of Fascism for the "Vietnamese Patriots' Fund." This organization has so far contributed over 20,000 marks.

• On January 5, 1972, the President of the Hungarian People's Republic Pal Lozoncsi stated that though last year the US imperialists and their henchmen in Saigon had suffered heavy and obvious setbacks they still pursued aggressive schemes against South Viet Nam... Like in the past, the Hungarian Party, Government and people fully support and actively assist the struggle of the Vietnamese people against US aggression.

• In the United States, in late 1971 and early 1972, many veterans of the Viet Nam war in New York, Boston and other cities turned out in the streets for meetings and demonstrations for an immediate end to the criminal aggressive war in Indochina. The "Viet Nam War Veterans" (against the aggressive war) staged many vigorous actions, like occupation of the Boston induction centre and the seat of the Hatford National Guard (Connecticut), a petition to the Chairman of the UNO Security Council urging that Nixon set a date for the total withdrawal of US troops from Indochina.

• Many personalities of the US political circles like E. Muskie, Hatker, Fulbright, Humphrey, McGovern, Church, McCarthy, Lindsay... and the chairman of the Association of American Indians for Survival, Hans Adams raised their voices against the warlike policy of the Nixon clique, for an immediate end of all US bombings and military activities in Indochina, and the total withdrawal of US troops.

SOUTH VIET NAM CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION